

191557Z Apr 00

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ3886

PAGE 01 HARARE 02164 01 OF 02 191552Z  
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACO-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EUR-01	VC-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W

-----4DC414 191553Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5791  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 002164

SIPDIS

PARIS PLEASE PASS TO A/S SUSAN E. RICE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF PDAS POWELL, AF DAS SCHNEIDMAN,  
AF/S DIRECTOR RENDER, AF/S DESK OFFICER GURNEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/19/10

TAGS: PREL PGOV ZI

SUBJECT: MUGABE'S SCRIPT DISAPPOINTS, BUT LATER  
CANDOR IS REVEALING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02164 01 OF 02 191552Z

REF: (A) STATE 64290, (B) HARARE 02121

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5  
(B), (D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. PRESIDENT MUGABE'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY WAS DISAPPOINTINGLY LACKING IN INDICATING ANY WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT CYCLE OF FARM OCCUPATIONS AND VIOLENCE. HE ALSO WAS SILENT ON THE TIMING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. SUBSTITUTING BANAL WORDS ABOUT PROGRESS SINCE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE USUAL PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS, MUGABE MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO A NATION THAT NEEDS IT NOW MORE THAN EVER. HOWEVER, IN UNSCRIPTED COMMENTS MOMENTS AFTER HIS PREPARED SPEECH, MUGABE SAID HE IS FULL OF ANGER TOWARD THE COUNTRY'S FARMERS THAT ARE SEEING THEIR FARMS OCCUPIED, AND BELIEVES THEY ARE ENEMIES OF ZIMBABWE. THE EU DIPLOMATIC GROUP IN HARARE WILL NOT UNDERTAKE A JOINT DEMARCHE WITH US TO PROTEST THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS. THEY LOOK TO THEIR MINISTERS IN EUROPE TO CARRY THE WATER. AMBASSADOR MCDONALD BELIEVES IT IS TIME FOR THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG TO ENGAGE MUGABE. END SUMMARY.

MUGABE MORE DIRECT THAN HIS SPEECHWRITERS

¶2. (C) READING HIS PREPARED SPEECH TO THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02164 01 OF 02 191552Z  
NATION ON APRIL 18, ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, PRESIDENT MUGABE MADE DISAPPOINTINGLY FEW COMMENTS ON THE LAND OCCUPATION CRISIS OR THE POLITICAL TURMOIL GRIPPING HIS COUNTRY. THE OBSERVATIONS HE DID MAKE COULD MOST CHARITABLY BE CALLED A MISSED OPPORTUNITY, SINCE THEY TENDED TO LEGITIMIZE THE ACTIONS OF THE SO-CALLED "WAR VETERANS" WHO HAVE OCCUPIED, AT VARIOUS TIMES, OVER 1000 COMMERCIAL FARMS AND MURDERED TWO FARMERS. MUGABE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THOSE WHO THOUGHT HE WOULD USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE AN ELECTION DATE.

¶3. (C) MUGABE OPENED HIS SPEECH WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE EFFECTS ON ZIMBABWE OF THE RECENT CYCLONE. HE REPEATED THE GOVERNMENT'S LINE THAT THE REASON THERE WERE NO PUBLIC CEREMONIES TO MARK INDEPENDENCE DAY THIS YEAR IS SO THE MONEY SAVED COULD INSTEAD GO TO THE VICTIMS OF THE CYCLONE. IT IS SPECULATED THAT PUBLIC EVENTS WERE NOT SCHEDULED BECAUSE THE

PRESIDENT FEARED NO ONE WOULD ATTEND OR HE WOULD BE MET BY PROTESTERS. MUGABE DID NOT COME TO THE LAND OCCUPATION ISSUE UNTIL ABOUT 20 MINUTES INTO HIS SPEECH. MUCH OF HIS INITIAL REMARKS COVERED, IN EXCRUCIATING DETAIL, STATISTICS SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF BOREHOLES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, INTENDED TO PROVE THAT ZIMBABWE HAS IMPROVED SINCE INDEPENDENCE.

14. (C) IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW IN THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 02164 01 OF 02 191552Z  
BROADCAST STUDIO'S LOBBY WITH LOCAL TELEVISION  
THAT APPEARED UNSCRIPTED, MUGABE MADE SOME VERY  
DIRECT STATEMENTS THAT HE IS FULL OF ANGER TOWARD  
THE FARMERS AND SEES THEM AS ENEMIES OF ZIMBABWE.  
IT CERTAINLY APPEARS THAT THIS STATEMENT IS MORE  
CONSISTENT WITH HIS ACTIONS THAN HIS SCRIPTED  
TELEVISION ADDRESS, AND PROBABLY REVEALS MORE  
CLEARLY HIS PRESENT STATE OF MIND.

NO DESIRE FROM EUROPEANS FOR A DEMARCHE

15. (C) THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN UNDERWHELMING TO  
AMBASSADOR MCDONALD'S RECOMMENDATION TO HIS  
EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES THAT A JOINT DEMARCHE TO  
MUGABE BE UNDERTAKEN TO PROTEST THE GOVERNMENT'S  
OBJECTIONABLE STATEMENTS AND TOLERANCE FOR THE  
GROWING CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION  
(REFTELS). THE LOCAL EU POSITION IS THAT THEY DO  
NOT THINK HARARE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORUM FOR  
STATEMENTS TO BE MADE. INSTEAD, THEY WILL LOOK  
TO THEIR CAPITALS TO TAKE THE LEAD. OUR POSITION  
IS THAT A STATEMENT CAN COME FROM BRUSSELS, BUT  
SHOULD ALSO BE DONE JOINTLY IN HARARE IN A

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTO8784

PAGE 01 HARARE 02164 02 OF 02 191552Z  
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EUR-01	VC-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	R-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/011W					

-----4DC41B 191553Z /38

R 191557Z APR 00  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5792  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 002164

SIPDIS

PARIS PLEASE PASS TO A/S SUSAN E. RICE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF PDAS POWELL, AF DAS SCHNEIDMAN,  
AF/S DIRECTOR RENDER, AF/S DESK OFFICER GURNEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/19/10  
TAGS: PREL PGOV ZI

SUBJECT: MUGABE'S SCRIPT DISAPPOINTS, BUT LATER  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 02164 02 OF 02 191552Z  
CANDOR IS REVEALING

FORCEFUL MANNER. AMBASSADOR MCDONALD ALSO  
LEARNED THAT A SENIOR EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT MAY COME  
HERE TO DELIVER A STRONG MESSAGE.

COMMENT: TIME TO TALK TO MUGABE

16. (C) WE BELIEVE MUGABE'S UNSCRIPTED REMARKS  
ABOUT SEEING THE FARMERS AS ENEMIES OF ZIMBABWE  
REVEAL HIS PRESENT STATE OF MIND. AFTER 20 YEARS  
IN POWER HE APPEARS INCAPABLE OF DISTINGUISHING  
HIS PERSONAL FEELINGS AND INTERESTS FROM THOSE OF  
THE NATION AT LARGE AND DISINTERESTED IN TRYING  
TO DO SO. WE ALSO THINK IT IS CLEAR THAT THE  
TARGET OF HIS IRE IS NOT THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS,  
WHITES, OR BRITAIN AS THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER  
PER SE--ALTHOUGH ALL ARE HIGH ON HIS LIST OF  
DISLIKES--BUT RATHER THAT HE IS TRYING TO GET AT  
AND DISRUPT THE NEW AND RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE

OPPOSITION PARTY, THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE, HOWEVER HE CAN. BECAUSE THE FARMERS HAVE EXERCISED THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO FREE SPEECH AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF THE MDC, THEY ARE TARGETS.

17. (C) I BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO MAKE KNOWN TO MUGABE THAT WE WELL UNDERSTAND HIS POSITION AND REJECT IT AS HE IS SENDING THE COUNTRY IN A DISASTROUS DIRECTION. ZIMBABWE MUST CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02164 02 OF 02 191552Z  
BE A NATION BASED ON LAWS, NOT ON THE CALCULATIONS OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY OF ONE MAN OR ONE PARTY. THE INCREASING LAWLESSNESS HERE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DELIBERATE ACTIONS AND CALCULATED INACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT, STARTING WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE DOWNWARD TREND HERE IS REVERSABLE, SHOULD MUGABE DECIDE TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF POLITICAL TOLERANCE, WHICH IS, AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, TRULY IN HIS SELF INTEREST.

18. (C) ACCORDINGLY, I BELIEVE A TELEPHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT MUGABE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON, VICE PRESIDENT GORE, OR SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. WE SHOULD ALSO MOVE FORWARD TO CONFIRM THE PROPOSED VISIT OF U/S PICKERING. BY URGING MUGABE TO STEP BACK FROM THE BRINK WE WILL BE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO SALVAGE DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW IN ZIMBABWE, NOT TO MENTION THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND THE LIVES OF SOME OF ITS CITIZENS- END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

CONFIDENTIAL

>